

# BOOK REVIEWS

THE WESTERN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

**HYPNOSIS IN THE RELIEF OF PAIN**—Ernest R. Hilgard, PhD, and Josephine R. Hilgard, MD, PhD, Stanford University. William Kaufmann, Inc., One First Street, Los Altos, CA (94022), 1975. 262 pages, \$12.50.

Among the most ancient threads in the historic fabric of the healing professions are both pain in its variegated and oft mysterious forms, and hypnosis as applied in its numerous guises (for example, laying on of the hands, the Aesculapean Temple's rest cures and the like).

In the first section of their book, the Hilgards have most successfully woven these threads together by first elucidating the history and current understanding of each phenomenon and then describing the tremendous potential applicability of hypnotic technique in the control and alleviation of pain.

The second section deals with specific applications under the general heading of pain as it occurs with cancer, obstetrics, surgical procedures and dentistry. The concluding chapters deal with hidden pain and its interpretation and the future of hypnosis in pain control.

In all, the book is well written and most understandable regardless of the reader's level of sophistication in neurophysiology, psychiatry or experimental protocol. It is made understandable particularly because of the summary of salient points and highly annotated comments contained at the conclusion of each chapter.

There is only one note of regret reflected in the book and that is that there are far too few practitioners who avail themselves of the unique and specific opportunity to utilize the efficacy of the hypnotherapeutic techniques in the alleviation of their patients' experience of pain. This book makes a major contribution, through its careful explanations and balanced presentation, toward righting this situation.

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**URBAN ENTOMOLOGY**—Walter Ebeling, PhD, Professor of Entomology and Entomologist in the Experiment Station, University of California, Los Angeles. University of California, Berkeley, Division of Agricultural Sciences, 1422 South Tenth Street, Richmond, CA (94804), 1975. 695 pages, \$27.50 plus applicable State sales tax.

For years it has been apparent to many that when man has passed from the face of the earth, his immediate successor will be the insect family. Insects have assured their future by their overwhelming ability to reproduce and adapt to man's world. These ubiquitous creatures have become so much a part of our everyday life that they are largely ignored, and have even been assimilated into our colloquialisms. From a more practical standpoint, insects have enormous social, economic and medical impact. Their role as vectors in the dissemination of infectious diseases is well documented. The considerable outlays of time, research and money for development of more potent pesticides have, in and of themselves, recently posed serious health questions.

*Urban Entomology* by Professor Walter Ebeling of the Department of Entomology at the University of California, Los Angeles is not written specifically for physicians or allied health personnel, but it encompasses a multitude of public health service problems. The book discusses governmental agencies and legislation dealing

with pest controls; pesticides—their use and potential complications; infestations of food, water and clothing; vertebrate and nonvertebrate pests attacking man, and even delusory parasitosis (patients who suffer from delusions that they are being parasitized by insects).

For students of public health, this book provides explicit information about the habitats of various insects and the relationship of these habitats to their role as vectors in the dissemination of disease. The chapters entitled "Pests Attacking Man and His Pets" and "Vertebrate Pests Such as Rodents, Bats and Birds" deal with more specific instances of patient care for a variety of situations ranging from the common to the unusual. The recognition, emergency and definitive management of venomous stings and bites, in addition to an understanding of the pathophysiology outlined in these chapters, constitute essential information for every emergency physician as well as many pediatricians and surgeons. Dr. Ebeling points out the relative dangers of each species of venomous creatures; for example, from 1950 to 1959, of 400 deaths reported secondary to envenomation, 230 were caused by anaphylaxis secondary to hymenopterism as compared with 94 deaths caused by rattlesnake bites.

The text is generously illustrated with colored and black-and-white photographs of venomous insects, arthropods and reptiles. The individual pests can be readily identified by habitat, potency, mode of envenomation and region of the country where they are generally found. Beyond this, the author outlines the usual symptom complexes caused by various venomous pests and points out the physiology behind emergency and other definitive therapy. He describes specific pests that constitute medical nuisances because of their venom and conveniently provides useful data concerning infectious diseases and the insect's role in their causation. The text serves as an invaluable addition to our emergency room reference shelf; it is an excellent source of information for physician and student alike.

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**DISEASES OF THE NOSE, THROAT AND EAR—A Handbook for Student and Practitioners: Eleventh Edition**—I. Simson Hall, MB, ChB, FRCPed, FRCSEd, Consulting Surgeon, the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, Lecturer Emeritus in Diseases of Nose, Throat and Ear, University of Edinburgh; and Bernard H. Colman, MA, MSc, ChM, FRCSEd, Senior Surgeon, Department of Otolaryngology, the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, Clinical Lecturer in Otolaryngology, University of Oxford. Churchill Livingstone Medical Division, Longman, Inc., 19 West 44th St., New York City (10036), 1975. 352 pages, \$12.50 (Softbound).

The original edition of this handbook was published in 1937, designed for the needs of medical students and general practitioners. It continues to be so oriented in its eleventh edition. Unfortunately, as is so often the case with old textbooks, the revisions are quite inadequate. Much of the book remains archaic and the updating is sparse and spotty. Consequently this rather attractive little book cannot be recommended either as a text or reference book for students or general practitioners. Fortunately, many more adequate texts in this field are available.

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